

Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program



General Overview

February 2011



Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program


What is MAEAP?

- Partnership
 - Farmers
 - Industry Groups
 - Conservation
 - Agency
 - University
- Directed by Steering Committee-Partner Representation
- All farm types – all sizes





The Mission

- To develop and implement a proactive environmental assurance program that targets all size Michigan farms and all commodities, ensuring that farmers are engaging in cost effective pollution prevention practices and working to comply with state and federal environmental regulations.
 - ... Promoting Stewardship, Protecting the Environment
- 



Over 50 Partners...





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How does MAEAP work?

MAEAP: Three-System/Three-Phase Program

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    graph TD
      PHASE1[PHASE 1  
Education] --> PHASE2[PHASE 2  
On-Farm Risk Assessment]
      PHASE2 --> PHASE3[PHASE 3  
Third-Party Verification]
      PHASE2 --> L1[Livestock System  
Nutrient Management  
Pesticide Use]
      PHASE2 --> L2[Grassland System  
Soil Conservation  
Farmstead System  
Water Conservation]
    
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What does MAEAP do?

The collage illustrates the various activities of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station (MAEAP). It includes:

- A tractor working in a field.
- A large storage tank.
- People working with equipment.
- A diagram of a farm's environmental management system, showing components like Groundwater Flow, Dairy Barn, Manure Storage, Milkhouse, Unseal Well, Septic System, Heating Oil Tank, Fuel Tank, and Waste Burning Area.
- People in a classroom setting.





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Why Do Farmers Participate?

- Environmental concern
- Marketing opportunities-customer demand
- Good neighbor
- Regulatory discretion
- Peace of mind – the right thing to do – pride
- Access to cost-share and incentive payments
- RUP credits
- Liability/Ins \$ Reduction
- RTF protection
- GAP audit assistance
- Follow State and Federal laws
- Improved Management
 - Plan for long term
 - Ahead of curve
 - Learn & improve
 - Recognition



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- MAEAP farms have addressed
 - Chemical storage and use
 - Fuel Storage
 - Well safety
 - Sensitive areas
 - Water resources
 - Soil erosion
 - All related RTF GAAMP's & environmental laws
 - And more...





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Environmental Gains

- Currently over 10,000 farms participating with almost 875 verifications
- Sediment reduction – Over 142,000 tons per year or 12,668 - 10 yard dump trucks
- Biological Oxygen Demand (5 day) reduction to surface water – over 1.2 million # per year from silage leachate
- 317,200+ acres with Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan
- Phosphorus reduction to surface water over 260,000# per year = 7,500 tons of algae in lakes and streams



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MAEAP Stewardship Practices

- Over 200,000 acres receiving pesticides have approved pest management plans
- Almost 4,300 acres of filter strips have been installed
- Almost 1,000 gullies have been stabilized, improving water quality
- Annually, over \$1.2 million is spent for practice implementation by farmers working toward MAEAP verification



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Local Involvement

Stewards of the Land

MICHIGAN WINERIES GROW GREEN WITH MAEAP

By Denise Wofford



Beneath the seeming peacefulness of many Michigan vineyards is an abundance of environmental activity. Farmers have long been regarded as stewards of the land. However, their modern role as caretakers has changed, and life at Michigan's vineyards and wineries is under transformation.

Locality has always referred to water, the "land" beneath and more precisely the MAEAP certification labels on bottles we are drinking what we can be thought of as "green" and that label is here to stay.

To address the various educational requirements, growers are required to work with MAEAP through local farmer education districts to establish environmental goals and address identified risks. Following completion of a farm-specific risk assessment and implementing any required corrective actions, farmers may request a MAEAP audit. In preparation for the MAEAP, the MAEAP website that educational and risk assessment requirements have been met, that the farm is in compliance with Michigan's Right to Farm. Generally, MAEAP audits are conducted by MAEAP staff or by MAEAP-approved third parties. The farm is then "certified" and the farmer is eligible to purchase a sign to indicate compliance. And the result? MAEAP-certified vineyards have proven their commitment to environmental protection by taking natural resources and local



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Community Awareness

Featured - Grand Rapids, News - Grand Rapids, Region - Grand Rapids -

Ottawa nurseries honored by MAEAP for ecological practices

By Rachel Watson
July 11, 2009, 5:00AM



Lon Niedner/For Cool | The Grand Rapids Press

The DeVries family works on their farm in Maize. Pictured from left to right are Janet and Roland DeVries and their son, Adam. The farm is an environmentally improved perennial farm, first in the state to be certified under the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program.



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MAEAP Verified Farms in Farm Market Promotions

A sign of integrity.

MAEAP-verified farms keep their land, water and air as healthy as the food they produce. They represent the highest standards of environmental stewardship and the promise of responsible agriculture.



Look for MAEAP signs at the local farms and markets you visit, and talk with the farmers. They're experts at producing safe, healthy, nutritious foods for you and your family while caring for the environment that makes their livelihood possible.



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www.maeap.org

Michigan farmers
are proud to be
MAEAP verified!





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Thank You

Questions?

www.MAEAP.org



